MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

LONG JOHN SILVER TO THE NWA???.....Page 6

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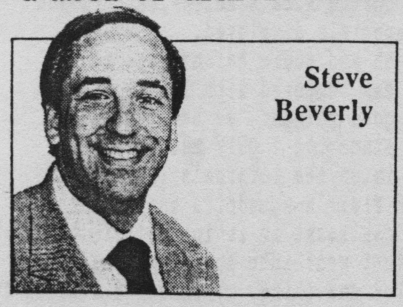
KNBC Special Report

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM: "I THREW IT ALL AWAY"

Nearly 21 million viewers were tuned to NBC Friday night before last to see the 1990 version of Wrestling in Wonderland. But in a Los Angeles hospital lay a former standardbearer of the World Wrestling Federation in a mood of drastic counterpoint to the frenzy in Detroit.



Steve Beverly

Superstar Billy Graham, who carried the WWF of the mid-'70s on his shoulders, was telling KNBC sportscaster Fred Rogan a story the Vince McMahons of the world avoid like the tornado which smashed my home two weeks ago. Graham apparently called Rogan the afternoon of THE MAIN EVENT, prepared to relate the tale of a cripple who destroyed his career and lifestyle in a sea of steroids. Rogan's interview aired on KNBC's 11 p.m. newscast that evening.

Graham is paying at least his seventh visit to a hospital for reconstructive surgery, this time having an ankle rebuilt. The former WWF champ blames it all on steroids. "I've had friends inject me in the locker room," Graham told Rogan. "I've injected other people. And the joke in the WWF locker room is that if you tested positive for steroids, you were fined. And if you *didn't* test positive for steroids, you were fined."

In Graham's current situation, he suffers from side effects from the "juice" which have caused disintegration of bone joints. "I read all the brochures," said Graham. "But we just shied that off. We had no clue it would go to your bone joints and literally destroy you." Graham used to boast of his "23-inch pythons" during his WWF and NWA days. "I lay in the hospital literally by myself at 3 o'clock in the morning in constant pain. I've got seven pins in my ankle and a reconstructed hip. I've done it to myself."

Growing sanguine, Graham reflected back on his glory days. "I was the champion of the World Wrestling Federation. The most colorful man in the sport and I threw it out the window. It's not worth it, man, when you're lying in a hospital cut open from end to end and you're on morphine and demoral because of the pain and you know you'll never walk like a normal man again."

In his own introspection, Graham doesn't consider his unsuccessful twilight career as a color commentator for the WWF, the last effort coming at SUMMER SLAM '88, one of the most critically-panned broadcasting efforts of the decade. Instead, he's interested in preaching the truth about drug use in the industry and attempting to potentially save the lives of young people.

"Ninety percent of pro wrestlers use steroids," said Graham, a figure I've had scoffed at and outright confirmed by several industry insiders in the last week. "The WWF tests for cocaine but not steroids." Ironically, Graham's comments came in the same week World Championship Wrestling was scheduled to begin drug testing for its entire company (including announcers and office personnel). The first test was announced but future ones are scheduled to be random examinations. MATWATCH was not able to determine if WCW will look for steroids.

"When I get out of here, I want to speak to high schools and colleges on the evils of steroids," said Graham. "Young people look at athletes like us and they think, if they can do it, why shouldn't I. All you have to do is look at me and ask yourself if this is the way you want to wind up."

All you have to do is see Graham in that bed to remind yourself that none, absolutely none of today's wrestling organizations are doing more than hit-and-miss attempts at striking back against drug abuse. If Graham's percentages are correct, public service messages may be wrought with ambiguity. But with as many kids and teens as watch today's TV wrestling, promotions have long since run out of excuses. We'll make the challenge from here: for every 30 minutes a wrestling show is on the air, its producing company should include a minimum of a 30-second anti-drug message. No bull, no in-character stuff. Just straight talk--same as many of the CBS stars offer in prime time spots.

And if testing doesn't include checks for steroids then it's no better than the ineffective program the National Football League has offered, much of which has led to the recent resignation of Dr. Forrest Tennant as the NFL's drug adviser.

The sad part is we'll probably see many more tales like Billy Graham's told in the next few years. The death of Rick McGraw in 1985 and reported health problems of former Florida champion Ed (The Bull) Gantner from steroids predate the Superstar's depressing story.

Next week, we'll follow up on the issue with the story of a wrestling executive who says illicit drugs are the biggest cancer in the entire profession.

(Dan Farren contributed to this report.)

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

ARN OUT 6-10 WEEKS; WW'90 INJURIES MASSIVE

GREENSBORO, N.C.----Arn Anderson will miss an estimated six to ten weeks of WCW action after suffering a reported pinched nerve to the neck during WRESTLE WAR '90.

Anderson heads a list of four WCW stars coming out of the Greensboro pay-per-view show on the injury list.

After losing the world tag title match to the Steiner Brothers, Anderson felt numbness in his right arm and shoulder and was diagnosed with the nerve problem.

Buzz Sawyer suffered a broken wrist and is expected two miss at least two weeks. Ricky Morton (torn pectoral muscle) and Rick Steiner (hyperextended elbow) are listed as probable in making the remainder of their scheduled dates.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

(Continued from Page 1)

WRESTLE WAR SCORES 2 PERCENT BUY RATE

ATLANTA----WRESTLE WAR '90: WILD THING scored a 2 percent buy rate of 12 million available pay-cable homes Feb. 25.

Preliminary reports from most of the U.S. indicate approximately 240,000 buys of the show, according to Turner Home Entertainment vice president Steve Chamberlain.

"The cable industry is very pleased with the success of the show," Chamberlain told MATWATCH. The 2.0 figure will not be official for at least 60 days but if it holds, it will top buy-rates for the last two WWF shows, ROYAL RUMBLE (1.6%) and NO HOLDS BARRED (1.9%).

The figure represents gross revenues of $3.8 million with the Southeast the top-drawing area.

STEAMBOAT LAWSUIT PAPERS DELIVERED TO WCW

CHARLOTTE, NC----World Championship Wrestling, Inc., and Turner Home Entertainment have been served with a lawsuit by former NWA world champion Ricky Steamboat, reportedly alleging unauthorized use of Steamboat's name and photos to promote its October 1989 HALLOWEEN HAVOC pay-per-view show.

Steamboat, whose contract was not renewed in August 1989 after a financial dispute, was pictured in HAVOC publicity flyers sent to cable systems across the U.S. Many cable firms also used Steamboat's name, based on earlier distributed T.H.E. materials, in on-air promotions.

Damages Steamboat is seeking in the suit have not been disclosed.

"MAIN EVENT" RATINGS UP OVER '89 FIGURES

NEW YORK----NBC's WWF special, THE MAIN EVENT, scored a 12.8 rating and 23 percent share of audience in its 10 p.m. time slot Feb. 23.

The rating was up 10% over the 11.6 for last year's Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage prime time split. The 20.9 million viewers, however, were the fewest of the three WWF/NBC evening specials.

MAIN EVENT finished in a tie for 44th with the ABC made-for-TV movie CHALLENGER in the Feb. 19-25 Nielsen ratings. It finished second in the time period to ABC's 20/20, which scored a 14.5/26 in the slot. CBS' FALCON CREST finished third with a 10.2/19.

WRESTLE WAR: THE TV SHOW

In this review, I want to look at basics. BASIC I: Announcing...Jim Ross and Terry Funk did everything one could ask of them to maintain interest in what, plain and simply, was a one-match show. Particularly in the Zenk/Pillman vs. Freebirds snoozer, Ross and Funk had to pull out every stop in the same fashion Ross was forced to do during CLASH IV (that 16-minute Steve Williams/Italian Stallion marathon). The difference here is they kept focused on the personalities and Ross was strong with background info on the wrestlers (the two best snippets on Shane Douglas' M.A. in education from Bethany College and USWA's Skandor Akbar having a hand in Cactus Jack Manson's past career. Funk is to be saluted for his efforts to shift Ric Flair's image away from the tired "Nature Boy" label to the "living legend" variety, which is how Flair must be sold in the 1990s.

BASIC II....The matches, themselves. Not even great announcing could lift the obvious lackluster nature of most of the supporting card. That U.S. tag match, even on TV, was like listening to Bobby Vinton records. And while lulls in crowd enthusiasm were not as noticeable on the telecast, it wasn't the barnburner variety---except during Rock & Roll/Midnights and Flair/Luger that even the last two CLASH specials displayed.

Craig Leathers did a smooth direction job and audio balance was much better than at CLASH X when a rabid crowd was tempered with low TV audio.

BASIC III....Overall Production. Some good points: we heard more in-ring audio and intensity than at any time since the I QUIT match last November. Plus, the technique of zeroing in on the referee's instructions for the main event and hearing Luger's and Flair's soundoffs was inspired.

Where I find fault with this show as a cablecast is in intangibles the viewer often doesn't see. I felt more effort went into special visual techniques at the last CLASH than here. For one thing, my personal disdain for rap music may show but I didn't feel the show open pulled viewers into the tent. You're trying to hook this show on one match; in my view, Ross should have cut a Monday Night Football type of open for this one, narrating over slo-mo and closeups of the two principals and tying in the Sting mishap, building the emotion of the world title matchup in his authoritative style---then come back to the open theme and graphics. Second, somebody needs to return to producing music videos. At last year's WRESTLE WAR, the Flair-Steamboat title match was preceded by that brilliant "Final Countdown" video. A quality music piece could have bridged the Steiners/Andersons and Flair/Luger bouts, along with the Gordon Solie interviews.

Last, this show cried out for closing followup interviews. Funk and Ross appeared to be rushed to wind up the show and the replay of the Andersons final run-in had to be aborted, yet still prevented TV viewers from seeing the emotional moment when Sting re-entered the ring and raised Luger's hand. Time should have been left for Solie to talk to Flair and the Andersons onstage and perhaps Funk to head for the ring for a wrapup with Sting and Luger sounding off across the Greensboro Coliseum at the Horsemen. Not only could that have helped wrap a package some viewers felt came up empty with no title change but that added segment could have aided in shortening a few matches which went on interminably long.

In the future, the textbook should read at least three matches per hour of satellite time. The fault here came from so many wrestlers being locked into tag situations that, other than the main event, few individual personal issues could be developed. Thank goodness for Jim Cornette's brilliant comic performance against the Midnights. And an MVP award goes to Nick Patrick for his quintessential "third man" effort.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE

Crowd Enthusiasm	3.8	Total Production	3.5
Announcing	4.5	Excellence/Show	2.7
Quality/Matches	2.2	TOTAL RATING	16.7

look like the Pope." 4. Lex Luger, WCW: "I'm no Superhero, Gordon Solie." 5. Stan Lane, WW'90: "The man who stole Ivana away from Donald Trump---JIM CORNETTE!" 6. Funk, WW'90, on Norman: "He's got the head of a buffalo and the body of Roseanne." 7. Marc Lowrance, USWA, on John Tatum: "Hollywood likes to go to baseball games but is usually asked to leave before the 7th-inning stretch for disruption." 8. Hulk Hogan, WW'90, on WWF belt: "It's a title. It's a lifestyle. It's the 3 Demandments." 9. Samuel P. Kent, WVEU: "Hogan didn't care nothing about no Warrior. He just wanted to come down and pose." 10. Cornette, PH, on The Slaugherhouse: "Their meat loaf isn't all baked."

11. Bobby Heenan, PTW: "Dusty Rhodes & Sapphire ought to have their own dance show. They could call it SWINESTAND or OINK FEVER." 12. Heenan, PTW: "A mascot goes from the waist up. An ascot goes from the waist down." 13. Cornette, WCW: "Sawyer makes Boris Karloff look like the Pope." 14. Kevin Sullivan, PH: "We don't drive no limos. We're the guys that turn limos over." 15. Norman, WW'90, to Missy Hyatt: "You look a lot like my sister. She's a lot bigger than you." 16. Funk, WWW: "Norman must keep a lunch box under his shirt." 17. Jim Ross/Funk, WW '90: (JR) "Cactus told me his goal in life was to be a foreman at the Double Cross Ranch." (TF) "For a decent meal, I might get him out there." 18. Percy Pringle, USWA, on sitting in Terrence Garvin's chair: "I feel like I need to put on a pair of pantyhose." 19. Ross/Funk, WW'90, on Sullivan/Sawyer: (TF) "Their centers of gravity are very low." (JR) "So is their character." 20. Funk, WW'90: "If this is the WILD THING, maybe I could be the mascot."

21. Sullivan, WW'90: "Buzz was never proven guilty." 22. Ross, PH, to Solie: "I like that word---surcease." 23. Sapphire, WWF: "I'm gonna put so many knots on the Queen, she's gonna think she's got the chicken pox." 24. John Heath, PWF: "If Ron Slinker lost his mind, it would take a microscope to find it." 25. Heenan/Gorilla Monsoon, PTW, on BRO. LUV: (BH) "This man has honesty. He's sincere." (GM) "As honest and sincere as you are." 26. Funk/Cruise, WWW: (TF) "Sawyer has thorns in his thighs." (CC) "Yeah, he's a prickly kinda guy." 27. Don Coss, PORTLAND, on Cheerios/milk angle: "I've heard of serial killers but this is ridiculous." 28. Scotty the Body, PORTLAND: "Just when you thought it was safe to eat breakfast again, here comes the Breakfast Club." 29. Scotty, PORTLAND: "I hate geeks, freaks and guys named Larry."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Luger, WCW: "This is not the finish of the match. This is not the end of the story. This is TO BE CONTINUED..." 2. Ric Flair, WCW: "If you ride with Sting, you die with Sting!" 3. Funk, WW'90, on Corny: "He is the most overbearing, obnoxious individual I've ever known." 4. Lowrance, USWA: "Tatum's the kind of guy who likes to party & have too much to drink." 5. Lance Russell/Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: (LR) "Lex Luger WILL BEAT Ric Flair!" (MH) "He's a self-centered, brain-dead idiot!" 6. Ventura, WWF: "Beefcake couldn't make ANYBODY look good." 7. Ventura, WWF, on Buddy Rose sitting: "Is he trying to impersonate Buddha?"

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Ventura & Vince McMahon, WWF: (JV) "McMahon, would you buy a car from Mr. Fuji?" (VMc) "I wouldn't even take it if it was free." 2. Jake Roberts, WWF: "Am I the kind of man you can trust?" 3. Funk, WWW, on Gladiator: "If you were 400 pounds, would you wear pink pants?" 4. Ventura/McMahon, WWF: (JV) "Have you gotten your ARROGANCE yet, McMahon?" (V Mc) "Do you think it would help?" 5. Coss, PORTLAND, to Scotty: "Can't you put your mouth into a lower gear?" 6. Brian Adams, PORTLAND, to Larry Oliver: "What size is your shirt? Extra medium?" 7. Grappler, PORTLAND, to Oliver: "How'd you skin your forehead? Did you fall off your tricycle?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. WW'90, Sting imploring Luger to come back & slapping him. 2. WW'90, Overshoulder shot of Luger watching Flair's ring entrance. 3. WW'90, Closing of Flair-Luger. 4. WW'90, Corny-Patrick exchange. 5. WW'90, Closeup of Scott Steiner being posted & railed. 6. WWF, Jake Roberts with various snakes. 7. WWF, Dale Wolfe putting on Piper's kilts. 8. PH, Cactus Crash over guard rail on Keith Hart. 9. USWA, Steve Doll pinning Brian Lee for USWA tag belts. 10. WW'90, Rick Steiner w. STING'S REVENGE sign. 11. PH, Corny swatting Pillman w. racket. 12. WWF, Buddy Rose bumps.

GROSS PICTURE - WW'90, Slo-mo of Sawyer breaking wrist.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. SLAUGHTERHOUSE (Sullivan on his new team). 2. HOT SCOT (McMahon on Piper) 3. RANDY (Don't Call Me PEE WEE) ANDERSON (Ross on WCW ref). 4. MR. TOTAL (ROOS announcer on Luger). 5. JIMBO DIDDLEY (Funk on Ross).

BEST AUDIO - 1. WW'90, Sting reviving Luger. 2. WW'90, Flair/Luger ref's instructions and their pre-match exchange.

GEORGE WASHINGTON AWARD - Theodore R. Long, WW'90: "I never told a lie in my life."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - Missy Hyatt's audio clipped at start of Steiner's interview, WW'90.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Ross, WW'90: "...time will tell." 2. Solie, PH: "...elevator doesn't stop on every floor."

BLOOPER AWARD - Ross, WCW, calling FRANKENSTEINER a STEINERLINE for the second time. Too excited, Jimbo.

BOO AWARD - 1. WWF, for less than nine minutes of wrestling on SUPERSTARS. I know you've gotta sell WRESTLEMANIA but this was worse than Dusty in the Magnum T.A. days.

TUBE TALK

If you wonder what they were bleeping on Kevin Sullivan's WCW interview, it was some of the old devil worship, "Lady of the Lake" crap....Joe Pedicino & Paul E. Dangerously guested with Larry Katz on WCBM'S PRO WRESTLING TALK in Baltimore Feb. 24. Ricky Steamboat on last Saturday....PORTLAND preempted this week....Total wrestling time on SUPERSTARS Saturday: 8 minutes, 22 seconds....Percy Pringle back doing color on USWA....George Scott's group out to sign Angel of Death. The Steamboat-Ivan Koloff topliner in Gaffney SC drew 150 Feb. 24, 15 of them Joel Goodhart's delegation.

Correction: it's Scott Steiner with the minor elbow trouble, not Rick....Heenan/Monsoon continue to need a catalyst on Monday nights....MATWATCHERS poll on WW'90 (139 calls): 56.8% positive, 37.3% negative, 5.9% average or no opinion. ....May 19 NWA pay-per-view in D.C. now called ARMED & DANGEROUS....Sammy Kent doing Southern-laced but absolutely funny stuff on WVEU SUPERSTARS....Remember the MATWATCH HOTLINE number is (205) 826-RING (7464)....We'll have a SHOPPERS NETWORK and YOU SAID IT! next issue. FSB.

SCALE: PINFALL!-Must See. PILE-DRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW-Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB-Poor. PLUS-Midscale.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Rhythm & Blues d. Lou Spiccoli/Riki Ataki; Kingfish Rhodes d. Conquistador 1; Bad News Brown d. Lupe Valdez; REPLAY: (From MAIN EVENT) Hogan-Warrior post-match standoff; Ted DiBiase d. Steve Gator Wolf; Akeem d. Terry Zoller; (From SUPERSTARS) Bubba Bossman handcuffs, destroys Brother LUV. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Randy Savage d. Jim Powers; Pat Tanaka/Akio Sato d. Breakdance Young/Tim Ketchum; Roddy Piper d. Dale Wolfe; Curt Hennig d. Omar Atlas; SEGMENTS: WM REPORT, HOGAN/WARRIOR interviews; Demolition d. Buddy Rose/Ted Stevens. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - (REPLAY) Memphis Stud Stable-S. Rockers studio series where Rockers win 2 matches but Stable wins belt back at end of show; John Tatum d. Chico Torrez; Matt Borne d. Jeff Gaylord by DQ; (REMATCH) USWA TAG TITLE/S. Rockers d. Stud Stable to regain belts. DRAW.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: INTERVIEW/Lex Luger discusses rematch w. Ric Flair; Steiners d. Lt. James Earl Wright/Zam Panzer; FUNK'S GRILL: Ole Anderson threatens Terry when Funk refs Flair-Luger matches in Texas; Mike Rotunda d. Nasty Ned Brady; Tom Zenk/Brian Pillman d. Gladiator/Fred Avery; Cactus Jack Manson/Kevin Sullivan/Buzz Sawyer d. Ranger Ross/Eddie Gilbert/Tommy Rich; FINALE: As Rotunda interviews, Norman walks up wearing deer antlers. RESTHOLD.
[NWA PRO]: Rock & Roll Express d. Galaxian/Rick Fargo; Ron Simmons d. Keith Hart; Midnight Express d. Pat Rose/Paul Drake; Rotunda d. Hacksaw Higgins and after, Sullivan/Cactus try to attack but Norman saves; NWA TV TITLE: Arn Anderson d. Johnny Ace with hand on ropes; RECAP: WRESTLE WAR '90. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(SCW) - Randy Rose d. Mike Winner; Ted Allen d. Tony Key; Mr. Atlanta/Mike Golden d. Steve Lawler/Dino Minelli; NEW MANAGER: Gentleman Jim Holliday; Nick Busich d. The Doctor; Ninja d. Allen Horne. BOMB-PLUS.

(ICW) - [RECAP]: SEGMENT/Bob Dow w. Brainwash; DiCero Brothers d. Sullivan/Fisher; Ivan Putski Jr. d. Danny Evans; Power Twins d. Burr/Gully; Tommy Rich d. The Invader; Tom Brandi d. Kahlua. BOMB....bad rerun of old matches.

(CWA/SYND.) - [RECAP]: Stud Stable-Southern Rockers saga; Robert Fuller d. Lon Hinkle; S. Rockers d. Keith Eric/Big O; Jeff Jarrett/Bill Dundee d. The Shadow/Bob Allen; VIDEO: Jimmy Valiant; Tony Anthony d. Jordan; Gaylord/Sheik Braddock d. J.J. Funk/Dutch Mantel; Jerry Lawler d. Freezer Thompson; B.J. Travis/Tatum d. Jimmy James/Tim Rapp. DRAW.

(PWF) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Tommy Rogers d. Coconut Kid; Brickhouse Brown/Black Magic d. Hollywood Rob/Wild Thing; Hurricane Walker d. Mike Awesome; ANGLE: Keirn fires bodyguard; Terminator d. Dennis Knight; Lou Perez d. Joe Padriero; Jim Backlund d. Scrap Iron Ford. BOMB.

[Last Week]: Perez/Walker d. Brickhouse/Magic by countout when Nasty Boys attack manager Ron Slinker & Brick/Magic leave to help; Keirn d. Wild Thing; Tim Parker d. Buddy Landell by DQ (over-top); Backlund d. Padriero; Terminator d. Coconut Kid; Eric Embry (debut) d. Awesome. BOMB-PLUS.

TV TEMPO

Feb. 26-Mar. 4

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Cactus Jack d. Keith Hart; WWW: Gordon Solie reviews WW'90 results; Wild Samoans d. Bob Cook/Paul Drake; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Jim Cornette introduces The Slaughterhouse (Sullivan/Sawyer/Cactus); U.S. TAG TITLE: Zenk/Pillman d. Freebirds by DQ when M Ex attack Tom & Brian but Rock & Roll Express makes save and 8-way brawl begins. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[WCW]: Norman d. Joe Cezana but Cactus Jack, Sullivan & Rotunda all run in for 4-way brawl; (RECAPS) WW'90: Flair-Luger finish, post-match interviews; Steiners-Andersons, Road Warriors-Doom post-match; (From WWW) U.S. TAG FINALS: Zenk/Pillman d. Freebirds; Idol/Panzer d. Sullivan/Sawyer by DQ when Buzz keeps going off top onto Idol & Kevin has to drag Buzz away by dog collar; Steiners d. James Earl Wright/Rick Fargo; Road Warriors d. Higgins/Brady; M Ex d. Chris Powers/Italian Stallion; Rock & Roll d. Freebirds but 'Birds give Ricky Morton double DDT after. POWERSLAM.
[MAIN EVENT]: TV TITLE/Scott Steiner d. Arn Anderson by DQ when Ole runs in but Rick enters to start 4-way. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/USA) - Akeem d. Zoller; Demolition Smash d. Haku; Rhodes d. Conq II; Hennig d. Atlas; Terry Taylor double countout vs. Al Perez; BROTHER LUV: Bossman angle; Jim Duggan d. Honky Tonk Man by DQ when Greg Valentine runs in but Jim destroys Honky's guitar and chases the 2 off w. 2x4; Rick Rude d. Ronnie Garvin when Heenan knocks Ronnie's foot off rope. DRAW.

(PORTLAND) - Bill Francis d. Scotty the Body on reversal; The Juicers d. Grappler/Brian Adams but Art Barr is stuff piledriven after, then both faces are coated with Cheerios/milk; Equalizer d. C.W. Bergstrom; PACIFIC NW TV TITLE: Ricky Santana d. Al Madril for belt when Ginger trips Al. ANGLES: 1. Ginger tells Madril she likes him. Al acts surprised when Ginger says Juicers told her to give him a hug. She tells him to pucker up & close eyes and sprays him with Beetlejuice sillystring; 2. Adams refuses Loggers Match w. Madril next week & throws tantrum when told he has to take it; 3. Grap/Adams attack Larry Oliver on interview set. POWERSLAM.

(WVEU/SUPERSTARS) - Samuel F. Kent brings his portrait to hang on the set to "bring some artistic quality" to SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING. Kent tells Boni Blackstone Bobby Heenan has sent them front row passes to WRESTLEMANIA VI but they turn out to be tickets to a dog track. NO RATING.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Terry Funk/Chris Cruise, WWW: (TF) "I'd hate for my 2 beautiful daughters to bring home somebody like Cactus Jack." (CC) "It'd be better if it were somebody like me. Hi, Dad! Terry Funk's my dad-in-law." (TF) "Yeah, it would be better, Crispy. I could handle you." 2. Funk, WW'90, on Rick Steiner: "I'd hate to see him with a test tube and a little extra gas." 3. Jim Cornette, WCW: "Sawyer makes Boris Karloff

A SAVAGE ON LUGER: Details of this are not certain but several reports have come to MATWATCH that a fight broke out between Lex Luger and Samoan Samu Wednesday night in Altoona PA. One unconfirmed report had Luger requiring 13 stitches but not missing any dates. Check TUBE TALK (page 4) in case we have discovered any updates. If it's legit, don't expect Samu to be around much longer.

CHICAGO'S VERY OWN: The NWA, after a year of negotiating, has cleared a weekly slot on Chicago independent WGN, which is seen in 45 million cable homes. The new hour is expected to begin in April and will be a specifically-produced show for WGN to avoid syndication exclusivity problems. Time will be Saturdays at 10 a.m. (Central) and will be the first WGN wrestling show in more than 25 years.

PAUL E. BUCKS: Paul E. Dangerously resigned as ICW booker last Monday. Angered over what he felt was interference in editing his latest TV tapings by ICW President Mario Savoldi and financier Howard Rapp, Paul E. opted to leave and now is considering several career options, including a possible berth as a WWF color commentator.

MORE MAIN EVENT: Likely the 12.8/23 is adequate, though not spectacular, enough to earn the WWF a prime time special in '91. But the 44th place finish points up wrestling's limitations in bucking standard entertainment fare. AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS is hotter than Hulk Hogan in 1990.

DESTRUCTION WHO?: With injuries decimating the WCW roster like Hiroshima, the AWA's Destruction Crew will be among the first reinforcements, though talk is they may be masked---something I see little chance in getting over. But Mike Enos (the masked Skyscraper at WW '90) and Wayne Bloom want to work so badly for WCW, the Turner people like their attitude.

ON THE COVER OF....: ROLLING STONE magazine (the March 22 issue) features a five-page story, "Crash Course," an in-depth profile of Larry Sharpe's Monster Factory. Detailed is the story of Joe (Rochester Roadblock) D'Acquisto, who jumped One Man Gang a few years back at a Rochester show in effort to gain the attention of Titan wrestlers.

IT'S GORDY: The WWF/Japan card will be announced this Wednesday and it's likely to feature Hulk Hogan vs. Terry Gordy on top. Late word is that New Japan may still walk out of the show because its wrestlers are poorly positioned.

TITAN TERRY?: Further, the story goes Gordy will likely not sign to go to Titan even after the match with Hogan. Vince gained the match (instead of Hogan-Tenryu, as the Japanese wanted) by paying extra for U.S. video rights.

CONNIE'S CAPERS: Our gathering in Greensboro was all set to watch the SATURDAY NIGHT WITH CONNIE CHUNG profile of the NWA's battle with Vince but the segment was bumped for the saga of the Trumps. If it did not air Saturday night, it is expected on this coming Saturday (10 p.m., CBS, ET).

ROCKERS' BACK: Marty Jannetty & Sean Michaels apparently back in Titan's good graces and on WRESTLEMANIA VI. But they're relegated to the opener vs. Pat Tanaka and Akio Sato.

MATWATCHING

LET'S BE GOOD SPORTS: Reports from the Detroit MAIN EVENT show is that several WWF agents physically attacked a fan for waving a STING poster. A number of other NWA banners were confiscated prior to the show.

GUEST REFS: Wahoo McDaniel refereeing some Flair-Luger rematches in Texas but Brad Muster may pull out of a similar ref date in Chicago. The Bears' fullback may face back surgery and the ref date had been booked by Flair.

NEW SOUTH: Expect Joe Pedicino to announce this week he's assuming the reins of SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, which will again revert to the name, GEORGIA ALL-STAR WRESTLING. Finances and time blocked his taking the ICW g.m. job. But also expect Joe to develop a new format of a wrestling show which he may be able to reveal as early as next week.

BONI ON LPWA: Boni Blackstone will be doing commentary for the next LPWA tapings next week.

WHERE AND WHEN: Lots of speculation on whether THE Flair-Luger match will be Sunday night at the Omni (too quick to build it), April 14 in Houston on TBS live (most logical to me), April 26 at the Meadowlands (WCW is blocked from booking a followup date there, so that's unlikely) or May 19 in Washington (a long delay). WCW to tape TV next Tuesday in Columbus GA and I don't expect a huge house.

MORE WW NUMBERS: The 900 WRESTLING HOTLINE drew 22,000 calls for the live Lance Russell/Chris Cruise call of WRESTLE WAR '90 Feb. 25 with another 10,000 ringing up for the replay the next night. Average call was six minutes and Turner Home Entertainment's cut will be more than $100,000.

ON TO SUNSHINE: Eric Embry headed to Florida with PWF but no telling how long this will last. However, PWF has plans to resume weekly Orlando shows (for its 150 fans).

STILL MORE CWF?: Promoter Lynn Weaver is attempting to restart CWF in some form. She's been trying to book Wendell Cooley for indie dates in Alabama.

MERCHANDISING: If you've had trouble finding ROOS shoes, you're not alone. Apparently, they've not been mass-distributed yet but it won't be long. At a trade show in Atlanta, Foot Locker executives told ROOS people they've been flooded with requests for the NWA shoes.

CORRECTION: Those 23x35 Road Warriors posters are <u>not</u> available from George Hill, which we erroneously mentioned two weeks ago. You can order them from GREG PRICE, 714 FAIRVIEW RD., INDIAN TRAIL NC 28079-0541.

MISSY HEEL: Expect a shift to a Missy Hyatt heel turn Sunday on NWA MAIN EVENT. Don't read into it that a similar move is necessarily near for Eddie Gilbert. He's still putting Samoan Savage over in openers around the horn.

DESPERATE DAYS: With Arn's injury, expect the Andersons to be "suspended" for their recent actions. Also, talk is when Mark Callous returns from Japan, he'll be a single managed by Jim Cornette.

FRANKLY, MY DEAR, I'VE GOT YOU IN A HEADLOCK

ATLANTA----If Long John Silver or Rhett Butler hits the ring, could Gilligan be far behind?

Associated Press writer Lauran Neergaard reported last week World Championship Wrestling, Inc., executive vice president Jim Herd, is seeking Ted Turner's okay to use the names of classic movie fictional characters for future WCW wrestlers. The names would come from names owned by the Turner organization through its massive film library.

Neergaard speculated Herd may try to use the name Rhett Butler for a future grappler from the Turner-owned GONE WITH THE WIND. But Herd says his first shot will be to pattern a charcter after TREASURE ISLAND's Long John Silver.

"I personally think we should approach wrestling from a historical viewpoint," Herd was quoted as saying in the story. "If I find a 270-pound, 6-foot-5, one-legged wrestler, I'd have Long John Silver."

Herd said it wold be "a plus if we had characters patterned after these larger-than-life individuals." Turner could not be reached for comment but Herd thinks the cable TV mogul will approve. "He's told me personally he likes what he's seeing and if he doesn't, he'll say so."

As for possible flack over such a move, Herd said, "We introduce controversy every day...and Robert Louis Stevenson won't get mad at us."

RATINGS RAP

WCW, MAIN EVENT TOPS AGAIN; NWA SNARES SYNDIE NUMBERS

WCW's WRESTLING NETWORK package of syndicated NWA shows broke its all-time record rating (for the week ending Feb. 11), though the number is somewhat deceiving.

The NWA posted a 10.1 rating, topping a high of 9.4 in 1987, in nudging the WWF, which finished with a 9.3. But the numbers were inflated by the CLASH X rating (which, though airing on TBS, counts as a syndicated show to one station) and all three TBS wrestling shows topping a 3 rating that week. But when TBS numbers are subtracted, NWA PRO and WORLD WIDE only posted a combined rating of only 2.8 nationally.

On cable, for the week ending Feb. 26, the TBS' WCW and NWA MAIN EVENT continued their strong winter performances, though substantially off from their record 4-plus ratings of the week before. WCW posted a 3.5 rating and 7.3 share to nudge out MAIN EVENT's 3.4/6.8. But both WWF wrestling series on USA Cable topped a 3 rating, the first time all four shows have been over that level in the same week ever.

NWA POWER HOUR ratings fell 36%, thanks to head-on competition from the NBC/WWF THE MAIN EVENT special.

CABLE

Week Ending Feb. 26	Rating	Share	Total Homes
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 2/24)	3.5	7.3	1.87 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 2/25)	3.4	6.8	1.82 million
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 2/26)	3.2	4.3	1.66 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 2/25)	3.1	7.8	1.61 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 2/23)	1.6	2.8	856,000
NWA POWER [Replay] (TBS 2/24)	1.0	8.6	535,000

SYNDICATION
(Week Ending Feb. 11)

	Rating/Stations	Last Week	Year to Date
NWA	10.1/173	6.7/174	7.9
WWF	9.3/247	10.5/248	9.4

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